

Front Page	Back Page	Other Page

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STATINTL

## Senate Blasts Explained:

# Fullbright Defends Criticism Of Johnson's Foreign Policy

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WASHINGTON — Sen. J. W. Fulbright of Arkansas, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, is trying to influence American foreign policy which he claims is made by "a handful of individuals" in the executive branch of government.

That is why he has been making a series of speeches in the Senate apparently critical of actions taken by the Johnson Administration regarding Viet Nam, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Soviet Union, Red China and communism in general.

"I hope to influence the course of our foreign policy," the 60-year-old Democratic senator said in an interview. "That is a very difficult thing to do."

"Speeches are the only way I have of conveying my views to my colleagues in the Senate and the policy makers in the Executive Branch. It is the only way I know to get across."

"If the press associations pick them up, if the newspapers carry stories and discuss them in editorials, then it impresses the executive."

MARTIN

### FULBRIGHT ADMITS

"very few senators listen to speeches on the Senate floor." He said, "I hate to listen to speeches myself, but I read them." He thinks "90 per cent of the communication between senators is by reading newspapers or the Congressional Record."

The senator contends there is very little opportunity for influencing foreign policy "in the so-called briefings at the White House."

"They bring in 20 or 30 members of Congress at a time," Fulbright observed. "Secretary McNamara, Secretary Rusk and the CIA do all the talking. Then they ask are there any questions? You've been subjected to this for two or three hours. Everyone is raring to go home. Certainly there is no discussion."

MANY AMERICANS are puzzled as to why Fulbright, a senior senator and supposedly a party leader in the field of foreign affairs, seems to be attacking a President and an administration of his own party?

"I don't think I am in conflict with what I believe to be the long-term foreign policies of President Johnson," the senator replied.

He called the President a "political genius," and said Mr. Johnson "already has proved himself to be one of the strongest, most effective

Presidents we have ever had."

"I don't mean this as a criticism of the President," Fulbright added.

THE SENATOR'S ATTITUDE, however, is not appreciated at the White House, where his outspoken remarks are construed as contributing to dissention at home and confusion abroad.

as to the unity and purpose of American foreign policy.

Sen. Thomas J. Dodd (D-Conn.), a close friend of the President and a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, called Fulbright's latest speech on the Dominican Republic "a sweeping condemnation of administration policy."

Fulbright charged that U.S. intervention in the Dominican uprising last spring was a "grievous mistake" characterized by "lack of candor." He claimed the real reason was to prevent another Castro-type Communist takeover in the Caribbean—not to save American lives.

Dodd said Fulbright's observations were based on a "slanted" report prepared by the Foreign Relations Committee staff, including newspaper accounts "culled without exception" from three metropolitan dailies (New York Times, New York Herald-Tribune, Washington Post) which apparently favored the rebel cause.

"That is not true," Fulbright said.